

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/876,285

Examiner

Lewis A. Bullock, Jr.

Applicant(s)

STEJSKAL ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to after final response filed 1/13/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6 and 7-20 now renumbered 1-19.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 07 June 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

LEWIS A. BULLOCK, JR.
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with George Gates on March 3, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

The claims are amended as follows:

Claim 1 is amended as disclosed in the after-final response and to correct 101 issues.

Claim 1 (Amended). A computer-implemented method for providing access to application data items of an application program, the application data items being contained in a plurality of interconnected data objects processed by said application program, said method comprising the steps of:

an extension object, that is associated with one of the plurality of data objects, receiving a request related to at least one of said application data items, said request referring to the associated data object of said plurality of data objects,

said extension object fulfilling said request with respect to said data object referred to by said request by creating a data provider object that is configured with functionality to provide access to an expose internal data of the associated data object, and

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if said request concerns at least one other data object of said plurality of data objects, said extension object forwarding said request to one or more additional extension objects that are each associated with other data objects for further processing of said request.

Claim 17 is amended as disclosed in the after-final response:

Claim 17 (Amended). A computer program product for execution by a computer for providing access to application data items of an application program, the application data items being contained in a plurality of interconnected data objects processed by said application program, said computer program product comprising instructions for causing said computer to perform the steps of:

an extension object, that is associated with one of the plurality of data objects, receiving a request related to at least one of said application data items, said request referring to the associated data object of said plurality of data objects,

said extension object fulfilling said request with respect to said data object referred to by said request by creating a data provider object that is configured with functionality to provide access to an expose internal data of the associated data object, and

if said request concerns at least one other data object of said plurality of data objects, said extension object forwarding said request to one or more additional

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extension objects that are each associated with other data objects for further processing of said request.

Claim 20 is amended as disclosed in the after-final response:

Claim 20 (Amended). An apparatus comprising at least one computer, said computer being programmed for providing access to application data items of an application program, said application data items being contained in a plurality of interconnected data objects processed by said application program, said computer being programmed for executing the steps of:

an extension object, that is associated with one of the plurality of data objects, receiving a request related to at least one of said application data items, said request referring to the associated data object of said plurality of data objects,

said extension object fulfilling said request with respect to said data object referred to by said request by creating a data provider object that is configured with functionality to provide access to an expose internal data of the associated data object, and

if said request concerns at least one other data object of said plurality of data objects, forwarding said request to one or more additional extension objects that are each associated with other data objects for further processing of said request.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The claims are allowable for at least the following reason: All of the claims detail an extension object fulfilling a request with respect to a data object referred to in the request by creating a data provider object that is configured with functionality to provide access to and expose internal data of the associated data object; and forwarding the request to one or more additional extension objects if the request concerns those extension objects associated data objects. None of the prior art of record taught or would make obvious the extension objects as disclosed in the claims. The cited prior art of record either teaches an extension object that creates another object to retrieve/access the data or retrieving/accessing data such that related data objects are also accessed to acquire/access the related data. However, the cited prior art does not allow for one skilled in the art to combine the teachings of their respective extension objects because the combination would destroy the operation of the other reference. U.S. Patent 6,728,726, herein Bernstein, teaches the operation of fetching attributes of a first object and related data from other objects, such that the client has access to the data of all data objects, i.e. the referenced data object and any related data objects. However, the cited teaching does not allude to the accessing being performed by creating a provider object that has functionality to provide access and expose internal data of the data object. U.S. Patent 6,826,759 and U.S. Patent 6,301,581, both detail an object creating another object to acquire/access data in a data object. However, neither of the teachings teach multiple extension objects such that one extension object calls another extension object if the request relates to data associated with that extension objects'

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associated data object. Therefore, as detailed above, the cited claims are allowable over the cited prior art of record since the claims do not teach the cited extension object having the capability of (1) fulfilling the request by creating a data provider object that is configured with functionality to provide access to and expose internal data of the associated data object, and (2) forwarding the request to one or more additional extension objects that are each associated with other data objects for further processing of the request.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

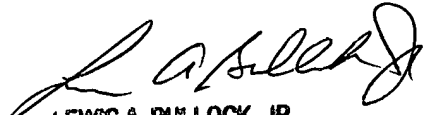
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lewis A. Bullock, Jr. whose telephone number is (571) 272-3759. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Meng An can be reached on (571) 272-3756. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

March 3, 2005



LEWIS A. BULLOCK, JR.
PRIMARY EXAMINER